

This week we focus on the faithfulness of God and His desire for us to be restored.

Do a little quick review, compare/contrast of “What happens when we give in to temptation?”

- Judas and Peter - both gave in to temptation.
- Judas refuses the grace and ends his life.
- Peter accepts the grace and God restores him.

The Faithfulness of God - v. 1-2

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

He was hungry, human, and knew what it means to be tempted.

Jesus did not go out in His own power, but His Dad led Him and gave Him all He needed.

Interestingly enough, Jesus believed that God is Who He says He is.

When are those times that you have fully trusted that God is Who He says He is?

Our strength is not our own, but in relying on Him Who is always faithful.

Faithfulness over Appetites - v. 3-4

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

Ask, What are some things that you hunger for? What can I not get enough of? (they do not have to be negative things here. We are not sin sniffing.)

What happens when we doubt His faithfulness and take matters in our own hands?

What is getting in the way of me serving God?

Faithfulness over Ambition - v. 5-8

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

We set timetables and can be consumed by if we meet or miss those goals. If God is the God of perfectly timed delays, how might we lock in to trust His timing?

Notice that when we worship Him in all things, at all times, our temptations do not lead to sin.

Share an account of when you tried to take a shortcut and it turned out less than desirable.

How are shortcuts not faithful in our desire to overcome temptation?

Faithfulness over Affirmation - v. 9-12

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike

your foot against a stone.' " And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

It feels good to be affirmed but is it faithful? What shortcuts are you willing to take to be affirmed?

We are affirmed by God Himself. How can we be assured that we are affirmed by God? Are there any scriptures or experiences where God has reminded you that you are His?

v. 13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time."

It is safe to say that the devil will be looking for continued ways to influence you to sin. See temptation for what it actually is. It is a shortcut that will lead to sin if you choose to give in to it.

Faithfulness wins Favor - v. 14-15

"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all."

God launched Him into ministry because of His faithfulness. As we are faithful to God, He will reveal to us His next step for us.

In these three areas of life; Appetite, ambition, and affirmation, choose to be faithful to God in all areas of temptation.

Rely on His awesomeness and stop relying on your own false awesomeness.

How might you begin to realize that temptation that comes your way this week is a shortcut to faithfulness? What will you do when you are tempted?

Remember that faithfulness to God brings Him glory.

Take time for members to share their prayer concerns and pray for one another.